

520  
THE  
STORY  
OF THE  
INJURED LADY.

Written by HERSELF.

In a LETTER to HER FRIEND,

With his ANSWER.

Now occasionally re-published, and addressed to all *true Lovers*  
of HONOUR, TRUTH, JUSTICE and LIBERTY.

WITH

A short PREFACE.

---

*By A. FREEMAN, Barber and Citizen of DUBLIN.*

---



---

D U B L I N:

Printed for JAMES BYRN, in *Thomas-Street*, 1749.

(PRICE Two-pence.)

*Sept. 20*

THE  
STORY  
OF THE  
INJURED LADY.

Written by HERSELF.

IN A LETTER TO HER FRIEND,



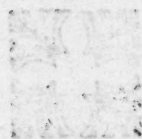
With

Now occasionally re-printed, inserted to all new editions  
of Honour, Truth, Justice and Liberty.

WITH

A Short Preface.

By A. FRANKLIN, Barrister at Law, and Clerk of the DUBLIN



DUBLIN.

Printed for James Ryan, in Thomas-street, 1799.

(PRICE Two pence.)

TO ALL TRUE:  
**L O V E R S**  
 OF

**HONOUR, TRUTH, JUSTICE and  
 LIBERTY.**

*Country-Men, Brethren, and Friends,*

**I** AM, unfortunately for me! a Son of the poor injured Lady, whose Case is truly related in the following Story, as she herself penned it, before her Marriage, and delivered it to her faithful Confessor and Counsellor, JONATHAN SWIFT, D. D. D. S. P. D. who, in his Time, was looked upon, as one of her most true and sincere Friends and most intimate Acquaintance.

It has been much the Fashion to censure and vilify this poor, injured Lady, since her Friend's Decease. And, I am sorry to say, few, or none have dared to attempt a Vindication of her: On the contrary, her Neighbours and Acquaintance have of late affected to look with Disdain, Envy, or Jealousy, upon her. Even her own Sex treat her, as they usually do those, of whom Slander and Calumny is whisper'd, not with Truth or Justice, but out of Spleen and Ill-nature: They pretend to believe it, and slight her worse, than if some criminal Facts had been legally proved upon her. This has made such an Impression upon her own Tenants and Servants, that they conspire to abuse and distress her. Nay, some of her own Children have of late rebelled against her, and are now, most impiously and monstrously, endeavouring to prove her Marriage with our Father, clandestine and illegal, that she is but a *Bonds-Woman*, an *occasional Courtesan* or *Concubine*, nor



a lawful *Wife*, and consequently a *dependent Vassal*, who, with her Offspring, are to be disposed of, as the prevailing Faction in the Councils of our Father thinks fit: For he, though one of the wisest and best of Men, the tenderest Husband, the most indulgent Father, the most faithful and steady Friend, and the most perfect Patron of Liberty, is not allowed to act or think for himself, but is kept, most unaccountably, under the Influence and Direction of his own menial Servants; so far, that, without their Permission, he can not give a Benison to one of his Children, or fulfil conjugal Engagements with my Mother, whom he yet loves, as well, as most modern Husbands do their Wives.

I AM so enraged at seeing this Treatment of my Mother, that I can hardly curb my Passion from rising to great Extremities against those, who have thus wickedly incensed my noble Father against my good Mother. But, my Indignation rises to a Pitch not well to be paralleled, much less to be express'd, against those, who before this Family Quarrel, were proud to boast any Kindred or Affinity with my Mother. When she was rising in Favour, she found many Friends, who freely offered to spend their Blood and Treasure to support her; but, mark, this was only when she was able to support them: For, since the Separation, they scorn to know, or converse with her. In the Days of her Prosperity, many came from far to claim Kindred and Affinity, or to enter into an Alliance with my Mother; she, good Soul! gratified the Ambition of most Men, in this Respect. She ever kept an open House, to which, all Men, Strangers especially, were constantly welcome, most hospitably, most kindly, most lovingly entertained. Her most remote Kindred, she treated with all the Tenderness of a Parent, and adopted many as her Sons: But, now she is neglected, despised, and forsaken by all, while many have conspired against her, robb'd and plunder'd her House, laid waste her Land, and now actually lye in wait, to take away her Life. Would You believe it, my *Country-Men*, she is now obliged to betake herself to a narrow Turret in her own Mansion-House, for Safety to her Person; while Ruffians of all Denominations are rising and pillaging the whole Habitation, and pulling down the Mears of her Estate, and destroying the Gardens, Inclosures, and other antient and venerable Improvements about her Dwelling! She is now reduced to so deep a Melancholy, that except a few of her old trusty Servants, from whom she receives, with Reluctance, the bare Necessaries of Life; she admits none to her



her Presence. Now, You must know, of all her Sons, I am the most inconsiderable. I am but a younger Child, and never had Recourse to the ordinary Means of getting Preferment, or making a Fortune ; so, that I have nothing more in my Power, than to sit down, lament and weep with her, and blend my drooping Soul with hers, by sharing in all her Grief, and determining to live and die with her ; for, I can now hardly bear to live to see her pining and consuming, covered over with undeserved Shame, Reproach, and Distress, and much less can I bear to see her brought to an untimely and ignominious Death ; which must soon be the fatal Consequence of her present Confinement.

WHAT provokes her most to Grief, is, finding many of her once beloved and loving Sons, quite negligent of her, totally unmoved and unaffected at her Calamity, in which they must all be sooner or later involved ; others flying from her and despising her like a cruel Step-Mother ; others joining with the common Booters, and running off with the best of her Moveables ; while an other Class, O horrible to relate ! foment the Differences between my Father and her, and help to widen the Breach, though it be to prove their Mother an *Harlot*, and to make themselves *illegitimate* ! which even leaves *their Right* to their present Patrimony, *precarious and dependent* on the Will of my Father's Agents, or *Executors* !

MY FATHER is so wise, so just, so good a Man, that were these Grievances, but fairly stated and laid before him, and he left to the Integrity of his own great Heart, he would soon redress them. But, it is my Mother's Misfortune and ours, as well, as his, that nothing but the basest and falsest *Story-Tellers* have past between her and my Father, these many Years. He is naturally jealous in his Temper, and she has no Means left of removing or assuaging that Passion, or of making her transcendent Love and unparallel'd Fidelity known. No Letter, or Remonstrance from her, will now be permitted, by my Father's Servants, to come before him. None of the few faithful Messengers, that yet generously offer to go of her dangerous Errands, will be admitted to my Father's Sight. And, in short, he and she hold no further Commerce and Intercourse, than his sending Drivers and Collectors for the Rents of her Estate. So, that there remains no Prospect of a Reconciliation, but one ; and that, I fear, you will judge most distant and dismal. However, I am willing to lay it before You ; and, as You are all interested in the Welfare and Happiness

piness of our Family, to whom, You can not all have forgotten Your Obligations; I flatter my self, some of You may judge it not beneath You, to assist in this Reconciliation, which alone, can prevent the Ruin and Destruction of both.

I OBSERVED to You, that my Father wants but due Information and Means to set all Things to Right. Now, while my Brothers are at Variance among themselves, and join only in abusing my poor, declining Mother, to gain Preferment from the imagined rising Power, We have no Prospect, but *Misery, Desolation and Slavery*. But, there is nothing more certain, than that if they all unite in the Cause of *Virtue*, demand Access to their incensed and abused Father, lay a true State of the Case before him, and make the Innocence, the Fidelity, the Love the Dutifulness of their Mother appear, and the Strength and other Advantages, that must accrue to him and her, and to their Family and Friends, by a Restitution of conjugal Rights and a Restoration of Liberty and Concord, and a general Reunion; he will undoubtedly punish those that first made and have since kept open the Breach between him and his just and lawful Spouse, and their faithful and legitimate Issue; and restore all to their wonted Peace, Harmony, Dignity and Honour.

My Request then, to You, my worthy *Country-Men, Fellow-Citizens, and Friends*, is no more than this; that You will, in Your respective Stations co-operate in this great and good Work. Use Your Influence in reconciling Us, Brothers, to one another, and to our Parents, mutually. Teach Us to prefer heavenly Virtue and Honour, to worldly Power and Preferment. Your Exclamations, at our shameful Divisions, and at our Abuses of my poor Mother and of one another, must be likely to effect this great, this common Good. And by Your generous and timely Interposition, these hateful and destructive Breaches may probably be repaired. I submit the Manner to Your Justice and Judgment, and now conclude,

GENTLEMEN and FELLOW-SUBJECTS,

Your most affectionate Friend,

and

most faithful Servant,

DUBLIN,  
Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>, 1749.

A: FREEMAN.

THE  
**S T O R Y**  
 OF THE  
**INJURED LADY.**

Written by **HERSELF.**

In a **LETTER** to her *Friend*, with his **ANSWER.**

**S I R,**

**B**EING ruined by the Inconstancy and Unkindness of a Lover; I hope, a true and plain Relation of my Misfortunes may be of Use and Warning to credulous Maids, never to put too much Trust in deceitful Men.

A GENTLEMAN in the Neighbourhood had two Mistresses, another and myself; and he pretended honourable Love to us both. Our three Houses stood pretty near one another; his was parted from mine by a River, and from my Rival's by an old broken Wall. But before I enter into the Particulars of this Gentleman's hard Usage of me; I will give a very just impartial Character of my Rival and Myself.

As to her Person she is tall and lean, and very ill-shaped, she hath bad Features, and a worse Complexion; she hath a stinking Breath, and twenty ill Smells about her besides; which are yet more unsufferable by her natural Sluttishness; for she is always Lousy, and never without the Itch. As to her other Qualities, she hath no Reputation either for Virtue, Honesty, Truth, or Manners; and it is no Wonder, considering what her Education hath been. Scolding and Cursing are her common Conversation. To sum up all; she is poor and beggarly, and gets a sorry Maintenance by pilfering wherever she comes. As for this Gentleman who is now so fond of her, she still beareth him an invincible



ble Hatred ; reviles him to his Face, and railleth at him in all Companies. Her House is frequented by a company of Rogues and Thieves, and Pickpockets, whom she encourageth to rob his Hen-roosts, steal his Corn and Cattle, and do him all manner of Mischief. She hath been known to come at the Head of these Rascals, and beat her Lover till he was sore from Head to Foot, and then force him to pay for the Trouble she was at. Once, attended with a Crew of Raggamuffins, she broke into his House, turned all Things topsy-turvy, and then set it on Fire. At the same Time she told so many Lies among his Servants, that it set them all by the Ears, and his poor Steward was knocked on the Head ; for which I think, and so doth all the Country, that she ought to be answerable. To conclude her Character ; she is of a different Religion, being a Presbyterian of the most Rank and virulent Kind, and consequently having an inveterate Hatred to the Church ; yet I am sure, I have been always told, that in Marriage there ought to be an Union of Minds as well as of Persons.

I WILL now give my own Character, and shall do it in few Words, and with Modesty and Truth.

I WAS reckoned to be as handsome as any in our Neighbourhood, until I became pale and thin with Grief and ill Usage. I am still fair enough, and have, I think, no very ill Feature about me. They that see me now will hardly allow me ever to have had any great Share of Beauty ; for besides being so much altered, I go always mobbed and in an Undress, as well out of Neglect as indeed for want of Cloaths to appear in. I might add to all this, that I was born to a good Estate, altho' it now turneth to little Account under the Oppressions I endure, and hath been the true Cause of all my Misfortunes.

Some Years ago, this Gentleman taking a Fancy either to my Person or Fortune, made his Addresses to me ; which, being then young and foolish, I too readily admitted ; he seemed to use me with so much Tendernefs, and his Conversation was so very engaging, that all my Constancy and Virtue were too soon overcome ; and, to dwell no longer upon a Theme that causeth such bitter Reflections, I must confess with Shame, that I was undone by the common Arts practised upon all easy credulous Virgins, half by Force, and half

half by Consent, after solemn Vows and Protestations of Marriage. When he had once got Possession, he soon began to play the usual Part of a too fortunate Lover, affecting on all Occasions to shew his Authority, and to Act like a Conqueror. First, he found Fault with the Government of my Family, which to grant, was none of the best, consisting of ignorant illiterate Creatures; for at that Time, I knew but little of the World. In compliance to him therefore, I agreed to fall into his Ways and Methods of Living; I consented that his Steward should govern my House, and have Liberty to employ an Under-Steward, who should receive his Directions. My Lover proceeded further, turning away several old Servants and Tenants, and supplying me with others from his own House. These grew so domineering and unreasonable, that there was no Quiet, and I heard of nothing but perpetual Quarrels, which altho' I could not possibly help, yet my Lover laid all the Blame and Punishment upon me; and upon every Falling out, still turned away more of my People, and supplied me in their Stead with a Number of Fellows and Dependents of his own, whom he had no other Way to provide for. Overcome by Love, and to avoid Noise and Contention, I yielded to all his Usurpations, and finding it in vain to resist, I thought it my best Policy to make my Court to my new Servants, and draw them to my Interests; I fed them from my own Table with the best I had, put my new Tenants on the choice Parts of my Land, and treated them all so kindly, that they began to love me as well as their Master. In process of Time, all my old Servants were gone, and I had not a Creature about me, nor above one or two Tenants but what were of his chusing; yet I had the good Luck by gentle Usage to bring over the greatest Part of them to my Side. When my Lover observed this, he began to alter his Language; and, to those who enquired about me, he would answer, that I was an old Dependent upon his Family, whom he had placed on some Concerns of his own: and he began to use me accordingly, neglecting by Degrees all common Civility in his Behaviour. I shall never forget the Speech he made me one Morning, which he delivered with all the Gravity in the World. He put me in Mind of the vast Obligations I lay under to him, in sending me so many of his People for my own Good, and to teach me Manners: That it had cost him ten Times more than I was worth, to maintain me: That it had been much better for him if I had been damned or burnt, or sunk to the Bot-

tom of the Sea : That it was but reasonable I should strain myself as far as I was able, to reimburse him some of his Carges : That from henceforward he expected his Word should be a Law to me in all Things : that I must maintain a Parish-watch against Thieves and Robbers, and give Salaries to an Overseer, a Constable, and Others, all of his own chusing, whom he would send from time to time to be Spies upon me: That to enable me the better in supporting these Expences, my Tenants would be obliged to carry all their Goods cross the River to his Town-market, and pay Toll on both Sides, and then sell them at half Value. But because we are a nasty Sort of People, and that he could not endure to touch any Thing we had a Hand in, and likewise, because he wanted Work to employ his own Folks, therefore we must send all our Goods to his Market just in their Naturals ; the Milk immediately from the Cow without making it into Cheese or Butter ; the Corn in the Ear, the Grass as it is mowed ; the Wool as it cometh from the Sheeps Back, and bring the Fruit upon the Branch, that he might not be obliged to eat it after our filthy Hands : That, if a Tenant carried but a Piece of Bread and Cheese to eat, by the Way, or an Inch of Worsted to mend his Stockings, he should forfeit his whole Parcel : And because a Company of Rogues usually plyed on the River between us, who often robbed my Tenants of their Goods and Boats, he ordered a Waterman of his to guard them, whose manner was to be out of the Way until the poor Wretches were plundered ; then to overtake the Thieves, and seize all as a lawful prize to his Master and himself. It would be endless to repeat a hundred other hardships he hath put upon me ; but it is a general Rule, that whenever he imagines the smallest Advantage will redound to one of his Foot-boys by any new Oppression of me and my whole Family and Estate, he never disputeth it a Moment. All this hath rendered me so very insignificant and contemptible at home, that some Servants to whom I pay the greatest Wages, and many Tenants who have the most beneficial Leases, are gone over to live with him ; yet I am bound to continue their Wages, and pay their Rents ; by which Means one third Part of my whole Income is spent on his Estate, and above another Third by his Tolls and Markets ; and my poor Tenants are so sunk and impoverished, that, instead of maintaining me suitable to my Quality, they can hardly find me Cloaths to keep me warm, or provide the common Necessaries of Life for themselves.

MATTERS



MATTERS being in this Posture between me and my Lover ; I received Intelligence that he had been for some Time making very pressing Overtures of Marriage to my Rival, untill there happened some Misunderstandings between them ; she gave him ill Words, and threatened to break off all Commerce with him. He on the other Side, having either acquired Courage by his Triumphs over me, or supposing her as tame a Fool as I, thought at first to carry it with a high Hand ; but hearing at the same Time, that she had Thoughts of making some private Proposals to join with me against him, and doubting with very good Reason that I would readily accept them, he seemed very much disconcerted. This I thought was a proper Occasion to shew some great Example of Generosity and Love ; and so, without further Consideration, I sent him Word, that hearing there was like to be a Quarrel between him and my Rival ; notwithstanding all that had passed, and without binding him to any Conditions in my own Favour, I would stand by him against her and all the World, while I had a Penny in my Purse, or a Petticoat to pawn. This Message was subscribed by all my chief Tenants ; and proved so powerful, that my Rival immediately grew more tractable upon it. The Result of which was, that there is now a Treaty of Marriage concluded between them, the Wedding Cloaths are bought, and nothing remains but to perform the Ceremony, which is put off for some Days, because they design it to be a publick Wedding. And to reward my Love, Constancy, and Generosity, he hath bestowed on me the Office of being Sempstress to his Grooms and Footmen, which I am forced to accept or starve. Yet, in the Midst of this my Situation, I cannot but have some Pity for this deluded Man, to cast himself away on an infamous Creature, who, whatever she pretendeth, I can prove would at this very Minute rather be a Whore to a certain Great Man, that shall be nameless, if she might have her Will. For my Part, I think, and so doth all the Country too, that the Man is possessed ; at least none of us are able to imagine what he can possibly see in her, unless she hath bewitched him, or given him some Powder.

I AM sure I never sought his Alliance, and you can bear me Witness, that I might have had other Matches ; nay, if I were lightly disposed, I could still perhaps have Offers, that some, who hold their Heads higher, would be glad to accept. But alas, I never had any such wicked Thought ; all I now desire is, only to enjoy a little Quiet, to be free from the Persecutions of this unreasonable Man, and that he will let me manage my own

own little Fortune to the best Advantage; for which I will undertake to pay him a considerable Pension every Year, much more considerable than what he now gets by his Oppressions; for he must needs find himself a Looser at last, when he hath drained me and my Tenants so dry, that we shall not have a Penny for him or ourselves. There is one Imposition of his, I had almost forgot, which I think unsufferable, and will appeal to you or any reasonable Person, whether it be so or not. I told you before, that by an old Compact we agreed to have the same Steward, at which Time I consented likewise to regulate my Family and Estate by the same Method with him, which he then shewed me writ down in Form, and I approved of. Now, the Turn he thinks fit to give this Compact of ours is very extraordinary; for he pretends that whatever Orders he shall think fit to prescribe for the future in his Family, he may, if he will, compel mine to observe them, without asking my Advice or hearing my Reasons. So that, I must not make a Lease without his Consent, or give any Direction for the well governing of my Family, but what he countermands whenever he pleaseth. This leaveth me at such Confusion and Uncertainty, that my Servants know not when to obey me, and my Tenants, altho' many of them be very well inclined, seem quite at a Loss.

BUT, I am too tedious upon this melancholy Subject, which however, I hope, you will forgive, since the Happiness of my whole Life dependeth upon it. I desire you will think a while, and give me your best Advice what Measures I shall take with Prudence, Justice, Courage, and Honour, to protect my Liberty and Fortune against the Hardships and Severities I lie under from that unkind, inconstant Man.

T H E

---

---

THE  
ANSWER  
TO THE  
*INJURED LADY.*

MADAM,

I HAVE received your Ladyship's Letter, and carefully considered every Part of it, and shall give you my Opinion how you ought to proceed for your own Security. But, first, I must beg leave to tell your Ladyship, that you were guilty of an unpardonable Weakness the other Day in making that Offer to your Lover, of standing by him in any Quarrel he might have with your Rival; you know very well, that she began to apprehend he had Designs of using her as he had done you; and common Prudence might have directed you rather to have entered into some Measures with her for joining against him until he might at least be brought to some reasonable Terms; But, your invincible hatred to that Lady hath carried your Resentments so high, as to be the Cause of your Ruin; yet, if you please to consider, this Aversion of yours began a good while before she became your Rival, and was taken up by you and your Family in a sort of Compliment to your Lover, who formerly had a great Abhorrence for her. It is true, since that Time you have suffered very much by her Encroachments upon your Estate, but she never pretended to govern or direct you; and now you have drawn a new Enemy upon your self; for I think you may count upon all the ill Offices she can possibly do you by her Credit with her Husband; whereas if instead of openly declaring against her without any Provocation, you had but sat still a while, and said nothing, that Gentleman would have lessened his Severity to you out of perfect Fear. This Weakness of yours, you call Generosity; but I doubt there



there was more in the Matter ; In short, Madam, I have good Reasons to think you were betrayed to it by the pernicious Counsels of some about you : For, to my certain Knowledge, several of your Tenants and Servants, to whom you have been very kind, are as arrant Rascals as any in the Country. I cannot but observe what a mighty Difference there is in one Particular between your Ladyship and your Rival. Having yielded up your Person, you thought nothing else worth defending, and therefore you will not now insist upon those very Conditions for which you yielded at first. But your Ladyship cannot be ignorant, that some Years since your Rival did the same Thing, and upon no Conditions at all ; nay, this Gentleman kept her as a Miss, and yet made her pay for her very Diet and Lodging. But it being at a Time when he had no Steward, and his Family out of Order, she stole away, and hath now got the Trick very well known among Women of the Town, to grant a Man the Favour over Night, and the next Day have the Impudence to deny it to his Face. But it is too late to reproach you with any former Oversights, which cannot now be rectified. I know the matters of Fact as you relate them are true and fairly represented. My Advice therefore is this. Get your Tenants together as soon as you conveniently can, and make them agree to the following Resolutions.

*First.* That your Family and Tenants have no Dependence upon the said Gentlemen, further than by the old Agreement, which obligeth you to have the same Steward, and to regulate your Household by such Methods as you shall both agree to.

*Secondly.* That you will not carry your Goods to the Market of his Town, unless you please, nor be hindered from carrying them any where else.

*Thirdly.* That the Servants you pay Wages to, shall live at Home, or forfeit their Places.

*Fourthly.* That whatever Lease you make to a Tenant, it shall not be in his Power to break it.

If he will agree to these Articles, I advise you to contribute as largely as you can to all Charges of Parish and County.

I CAN

I can assure you, several of that Gentleman's ablest Tenants and Servants are against his severe Usage of you, and would be glad of an Occasion to convince the rest of their Error, if you will not be wanting to your self.

If the Gentleman refuses these just and reasonable Offers, pray let me know it, and perhaps I may think of something else that will be more effectual.

*I am,*

*M A D A M,*

*Your Ladyship's, &c.*

---

6 DE 58



